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products, acetone, etc., from the kelps of the Pacific coast.

DR. L. H. BAILEY, Mrs. Bailey and Miss Bailey are preparing to leave Ithaca at the end of this month for a tour of the Far East to last the greater part of a year.

ROALD AMUNDSEN has definitely postponed the execution of his plans for an expedition to the north pole until after the war. His ship was almost equipped for the trip, which was to have lasted three or four years, and the crew had been hired; but the money difficulties proved insuperable. The necessary expenses of the expedition in consequence of war prices have mounted from $135,000 to double that figure.

THE annual meeting of the Brooklyn Entomological Society was held on January 13 and the following officers were elected for 1917: President, W. T. Bather; Vice-president, W. T. Davis; Treasurer, C. E. Olsen; Recording Secretary, J. R. de la Torre Bueno; Corresponding Secretary, R. P. Dow; Librarian, A. C. Weeks; Publication Committee, J. R. de la Torre Bueno, C. Schaeffer and R. P. Dow.

DR. JAMES R. ANGELL, of the University of Chicago, is giving a course of lectures on "The Makers of Modern Psychology" on the Spencer Foundation at Union College.

A COURSE of twenty-four lectures on ore deposits is being delivered before the department of geology of Columbia University by Professor John D. Irving, professor of economic geology, Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University.

PROFESSOR F. J. METZGER, of the department of chemical engineering, Columbia University, has resigned his position to accept the position of manager of chemical development, with the Air Reduction Company, New York.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE late Dr. John A. McCorkle had set aside in trust bonds of the market value of $50,000 which became payable to the Long Island College Hospital upon his death. A committee of prominent citizens, headed by the Honorable Edgar M. Cullen, is endeavoring to raise an equal amount as a memorial fund to Dr. McCorkle.

A GIFT of $50,000 to the principal of the alumni fund, subject to an annuity, from a graduate of the class of 1867, Yale College, was announced at the last meeting of the corporation. This is the second gift of like amount and under similar conditions that has been made to the credit of the class of 1867 in the alumni fund. There has also been received, from Robert W. Kelley, '74, class agent and a director of the fund, $125,000 (subject to an annuity as to four fifths of the amount), the whole to be added to the Yale Alumni Fund as an addition to the permanent memorial fund of 1874.

DR. WILLIAM WISTAR COMFORT, professor of the Romance languages and literatures and head of the department at Cornell University, has been elected president of Haverford College. He will succeed Dr. Isaac Sharpless, who will retire after completing a service of thirty years in the Haverford presidency.

J. O. RANKIN has resigned as agricultural editor at the Missouri Station to become associate professor of agricultural economics at the Iowa College, and is succeeded by M. N. Beeler, agricultural editor at the University of Florida.

DR. RAOUL BLANCHARD, professor of geography and director of the Institute of Geography at the University of Grenoble, has been appointed exchange professor at Harvard for 1916–17. His term of service will fall in the second half year.

DR. V. A. COULTER, Ph.D., has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry in the University of North Carolina.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

NEGATIVE SURFACE TENSION

IN a recent number of SCIENCE (November 24, 1916) Professor W. A. Patrick in a note on "Ostwald's Handbook of Colloidal Chemistry," expresses doubt as to the existence of negative surface tension, and suggests that it